

The complete listing of all the claims is set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) A method for extracting and converting data in a computer system from one or more information sources into a common format, comprising:
 - receiving said information sources in a computer system;
 - receiving at least one pattern descriptor selected from a graphical user interface;
 - receiving one or more templates, each of said templates having said at least one pattern descriptor;
 - applying said one or more templates to said information sources;
 - generating said data in a common format by parsing said information sources with a universal parsing agent that utilizes said one or more templates; and
 - storing said data in said common format.
2. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein after storing said data in said common format, said method further comprises communicating said data to an application configured to process said common format.
3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said application is a database application.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said common format for said structured data is a Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein before receiving said one or more templates, said method further comprises,

generating said one or more templates by selecting a file from said information sources, and

having a user select one or more pattern descriptors to describe said file.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 further comprising permitting said user to define said one or more pattern descriptors.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein before receiving said one or more templates, said method further comprises permitting said user to select one or more templates from a template library.

8. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said storing of said data in said common format is selected from a group of storage bins consisting of an input bin, a wait bin, an incomplete bin, and a complete bin.

9. (Previously amended) A system for extracting and converting data from one or more information sources into a common format, comprising:

 a memory configured to receive said information sources, said memory configured to store one or more templates wherein each of said templates has at least one pattern descriptor selected from a graphical user interface;

 an input device configured to receive said at least one pattern descriptor from a user interacting with a graphical user interface;

 a processor programmed to:

 apply said one or more templates to said information sources;

 generate said data in said common format by parsing said information sources with a universal parsing agent that utilizes said one or more templates; and

 communicate said data in said common format.

10. (Previously amended) The system of claim 9 wherein said processor is configured to communicate said data in said common format to an application configured to process said common format.

11. (original) The system of claim 10 wherein said application is a database application.

12. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said common format for said structured data is a Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.

13. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said memory stores a template library from which a user can select one or more templates.

14. (Previously amended) The system of claim 9 wherein said memory stores said data in said common format in a storage bin selected from a group of storage bins consisting of an input bin, a wait bin, and incomplete bin, and a complete bin.

15. (Previously amended) A computer readable medium encoded with a computer program having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for extracting and converting data from one or more information sources into a common format, comprising:

- receiving said information sources;
- receiving at least one pattern descriptor selected from a graphical user interface;
- receiving one or more templates, each of said templates having said at least one pattern descriptor;
- applying said one or more templates to said information sources;
- converting said data into said common format by parsing said information sources with a universal parsing agent that utilizes said one or more templates; and
- storing said data in said common format.

16. (Previously amended) The computer readable medium encoded with a computer program having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15 wherein after storing said data in said common format, said method further comprises communicating said data in said common format to an application configured to process said common format.

17. (Previously amended) The computer readable medium encoded with a computer program having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 16 wherein said application is a database application.

18. (Previously amended) The computer readable medium encoded with a computer program having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15 wherein said common format for said structured data is a Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.

19. (Previously amended) The computer readable medium encoded with a computer program having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15 wherein before receiving said one or more templates, said method further comprises, generating said one or more templates by selecting a file from said plurality of information sources, and having a user select one or more pattern descriptors to describe said file.

20. (Previously amended) The computer readable medium encoded with a computer program having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 16 further comprising permitting said user to define said one or more pattern descriptors.

21. (Previously amended) The computer readable medium encoded with a computer program having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15

wherein before receiving said one or more templates, said method further comprises permitting said user to select one or more templates from a template library.

22. (Previously amended) The computer readable medium encoded with a computer program having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15 wherein said storing of said data in said common format is selected from a group of storage bins consisting of an input bin, a wait bin, an incomplete bin, and a complete bin.

23. (Withdrawn – Previously Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the graphical user interface comprises:

- a first button that permits a user to receive said information sources;
- a second button that permits a user to select at least one pattern descriptor;
- a third button that permits a user to select one or more templates, each of said templates having at least one pattern descriptor; and
- a first display window accessible from said graphical user interface, said first display window configured to display said plurality of data in said common format wherein said data in said common format is generated by parsing said information sources with said one or more templates that have said at least one pattern descriptor.

24. (Withdrawn – Previously Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein said first display window is configured to display said structured data in an Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.

25. (Withdrawn – Previously Amended) The system of claim 23 further comprising a second display window that permits a user to generate one or more templates by selecting a file from said information sources.

26. (Withdrawn – Previously Amended) The system of claim 25 further comprising a third display window configured to permit said user to define said one or more pattern descriptors.
27. (Withdrawn – Previously Amended) The system of claim 23 further comprising a fourth button configured to permit said user to view a template.
28. (Withdrawn – Previously Amended) The system of claim 23 further comprising a plurality of buttons that represent a group of storage bins consisting of an input bin, a wait bin, an incomplete bin, and a complete bin.
29. (Previously Added) The method of claim 1 wherein said information sources are selected from the group of structured information sources, semi-structured information sources, unstructured information sources and combinations thereof.
30. (Previously Added) The system of claim 9 wherein said information sources are selected from the group of structured information sources, semi-structured information sources, unstructured information sources and combinations thereof.
31. (Previously amended) The computer readable medium encoded with a computer program having computer-executable instructions for performing said method of claim 15 wherein information sources are selected from the group of structured information sources, semi-structured information sources, unstructured information sources and combinations thereof.
32. (Withdrawn – Previously Amended) The system of claim 23 wherein information sources are selected from the group of structured information sources, semi-structured information sources, unstructured information sources and combinations thereof.